

Atty. Docket No.: ORTV.P004

Patent 09/873,103

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. No claims have been allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Crookham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,681,110), hereinafter "Crookham".

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over the cited art. Crookham discloses an apparatus to control remote devices or equipment via existing cellular telephone networks.

The apparatus receives information from a customer concerning a specific function, which the customer wants to perform at the remote equipment. A Central Control receives this information from the customer and correlates the function to a specific cellular telephone MIN number, which has been pre-programmed in a computer at the Central Control. The MIN number is then sent to a cellular provider. The cellular provider then transmits the MIN number to an antenna, which transmits the MIN number to a remote equipment controller at the remotely located equipment. The remote equipment controller then takes the a [sic] part of the MIN and gives these numbers to a PLC at the remote equipment controller. The PLC then memory maps the part of the MIN to a specific function to be carried out by the remote equipment controller. Then the remote equipment controller carries [sic] out specified functions at the remote equipment. (Abstract).

Crookham teaches a Central Control 10 that controls remotely located physical components such as lighting systems. (column 6, lines 54-67).

Crookham completely lacks any teaching or disclosure regarding at least a method for managing application programs in a digital electronic device, the method comprising the steps of storing, on the electronic device, an application set and an associated control file, wherein the application set includes at least one application comprising a plurality of object methods. Crookham teaches a program on a Central Control for remotely controlling lighting systems, but does not teach managing application programs in a digital electronic device (as in claim 1, for example). Application programs as claimed include typical examples of software applications such as word processors, spreadsheets and media players. (see Wikipedia definition of

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“application program”). Crookham does not disclose application programs in a digital electronic device (as in claim 1) at all. Further Crookham clearly fails to teach an application set including at least one application comprising a plurality of object methods as in claim 1. As in the current specification at page 7, line 15, “the term “object” is used in this patent specification in the context of object-oriented programming (OOP), with which persons skilled in the art to which the invention relates are familiar. Crookham simply has nothing whatsoever to do with application programs as claimed, creating a plurality of bus listener objects in an object framework of the device as claimed, defining a plurality of bus addresses, each corresponding to one and only one of the plurality of bus listener objects as claimed, etc. Crookham is directed to remotely controlling physical devices that can be controlled by electronic signals, such as lighting devices, and is therefore in no way analogous to the present invention, which relates to remote management of software applications.

The Office Action cites column 7, line 54-column 9, line 31, and column 13, line 56-column 16, line 37 of Crookham as disclosing limitations of claims 1 and 13, including for example a bus listener object to which the bus address corresponds responding to a change in value stored in the bus address by invoking an object method associated with the address. Applicants have carefully read this passage and find the teaching lacking. Crookham has simply nothing to do with bus listener objects, or any objects as claimed. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 13 are not anticipated by Crookham.

Claims 3 and 15, 4 and 16, 5 and 17, 6 and 18, 7 and 19, 8 and 20, 9 and 21, 10 and 22, 11 and 23, 12 and 24 were rejected as respective pairs citing various passages of Crookham. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are all dependent on either allowable claim 1 or allowable claim 13, and each include further limitations on its base claim. For this reason alone, each of the dependent claims is allowable over Crookham. However, Applicants would like to note that after reviewing Crookham, Applicants find that there is no teaching whatsoever in Crookham regarding:

an activation signal including a representation of a value as claimed;
receiving a value from a process as claimed or an application program method as claimed;

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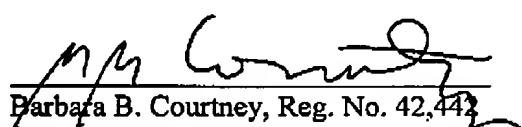
receiving a value from a framework method as claimed;
creating a plurality of bus listener objects as claimed;
an object framework as claimed that is a software layer as claimed;
an object method that is of an application program as claimed;
an object method that is of a framework as claimed;
an object method that runs an application program as claimed;
an object method that installs an application program as claimed;
an object method that monitors an application program as claimed; or
an object method that enables an application program as claimed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance. The allowance of the claims is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if there are any issues that remain to be resolved prior to allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: April 12, 2006


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